(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार सतर्कता आयुक्त के पद को समाप्त करना चाहती है?

कार्मिक, लोक-शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा वित्त मंत्रालय (बैंकिंग, राजस्व और बीमा) में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कादम्बूर एम० आर० जनार्दनन): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) जी, नहीं।

Collection of money by Kendriya Bhandar

1013. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kendriya Bhandar is collecting large sums of money from the suppliers it registers and does not pay interest thereon;

(b) if so, how much money has the Kendriya Bhandar collected so far and at what rate from the suppliers and the reasons for sparing some suppliers for not paying the money; and

(c) under which law is the Kendriya Bhandar doing so and what steps Government are taking to ensure the stopping of the illegal pratice forthwith and to refund the entire money to the suppliers with interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) As per its approved purchase policy, Kendriya Bhandar invites tenders for registration of suppliers wherein tenders are required to deposit earnest money of Rs. 10,000/-. This money is refunded to unsuccessful tenderers after finalisation of the tenders. In case of successful tenderers this money is converted into security deposit and retained by Kendriya Bhandar. Security deposit of Rs. 10,000/- is also levied from manufacturers/authorised distributors of branded products who submit their proposals for registration in Kendriya Bhandar. No interest is paid on the earnest money/security deposit by Kendriya Bhandar.

Security deposit is not insisted upon from public sector undertakings and cooperative societies. Exemptions may also be given in very hard cases as an exception. As on date, an amount of Rs. 91.97 lakhs is lying Kendriya Bhandar as security deposit/earnest money deposit.

(c) According to Kendriya Bhandar, there is a practice to collect earnest money and security deposit against tenders invited/suppliers registered. Earnest money is levied to ensure that tenderers do not withdraw their offers within the tender validity period. This also ensures that only serious bidders participate in the tenders. Security deposit is levied for due performance of the supply contract and is part of the contract mutually agreed upon. Security deposit is refunded to the concerned suppliers on their request if either they themselves or the Kendriya Bhandar decide(s) to discontinue supplies.

Replies to letters of MPs by Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions

1014. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inordinate delay is taking place in replying to the letters of the Members of Parliament by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of letters pending reply in the Ministry and since when;

(d) whether the Ministry is the nodal Ministry to issue guidelines to other Ministries to answer the letters of M.Ps; and

(e) if so, the reasons for its failing in not replying to letters and by which date will all the pending letters be replied?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) As on 1st March, 1999, 129 letters from M.Ps were pending in the Ministry out of which final replies in respect of 32 letters are already under submission. Of the remaining 97 letters, 52 letters have been pending for over 3 months, mainly for want of requisite information from other Ministries/ Departments.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The main reason for pendency is as mentioned against reply to parts (a), (b) and (c). It will be difficult to indicate the date by which replies will be sent to all the pending letters. However, efforts will be made to send the replies as early as possible.

Pensionary Benefits to the Employees of Indian Red Cross Society

1015. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of Indian Red Cross Society are entitled to the benefits of pension and family pensions;

(b) if so, from which date they are entitled to the benefit of pensions and family pensions separately; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor while they are entitled to CGHS facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTANAN): (a) No.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) The employees of the Indian Red Cross Society (National Headquarters) enjoy the benefit of Contributory Provident Fund. The employees contribute 10% of their pay to the CPF and the Society makes a matching contribution. The Government of India have extended the facility of CGHS to serving employees of the Society on payment of a prescribed fee.

Declaration of Assets and Liabilities by Ministers

1016. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the Members of the present Council of Ministers have since filed their declaration about their assets and liabilities as on a date posterior to March, 1998 to the P.M.O.;

(b) if so, whether these would be made public/placed in Parliament library; and

(c) whether M.Ps and M.L.As also will be asked to follow suit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) In pursuance of the decision taken by the Cabinet on 22nd March, 1998 that Members of Council of Ministers should declare their assets and liabilities to the Prime Miniser, including those of their family members within the next 90 days for being made public, all the Ministers have submitted their statements of assets and liabilities.

(b) It is proposed to place a copy each of the above statements in the Parliament House Library soon.

(c) As regards MPs, a suitable provision, regarding declaration of assets and liabilities, has been incorporated in the Lokpal Bill, 1998 which has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 3rd August, 1998. So far as the MLAs are concerned, the matter lies within the jurisdiction of the respective State Governments.